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C. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-24 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 8, 14, and 21-24 are independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 14, and 16 have been amended, claims 2 and 15 have been canceled, and no claims have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 8-13 and 21-24 were allowed by the Examiner. In addition, claims 2, 4-7, and 15-20 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims but were noted as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 2 and 15 have been incorporated in independent claims 1 and 14, respectively, and claims 2 and 15 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14, as amended, include limitations found to be allowable by the Examiner. The remaining dependent claims that were either rejected or objected to each depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 and 14 and, therefore, are now allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 14 are allowable.

Drawings

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has accepted Applicants' formal drawings that were filed concurrently with the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for having insufficient antecedent basis for the term

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"the analyzing," found in both of these claims. Applicants have amended each of these claims providing sufficient antecedent basis for each claim limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections in light of Applicants' amendments.

Claim Rejections - Alleged Anticipation Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated, and therefore unpatentable, over U.S. Patent No. 4,903,247 to Gerwen et al. (hereinafter "Gerwin"). As described above, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 so that each of these claims includes limitations formerly found in claims 2 and 15, respectively. By way of Applicants' amendments to the claims, Applicants have traversed the rejections of claims 1 and 14. While Applicants do not agree that Gerwen anticipates Applicants' claims 1 and 14, as originally filed, Applicants have amended these claims to expedite allowance of Applicants' remaining claims.

Applicants have overcome the rejections under § 102 and respectfully submit that the remaining claims 1, 3-14, and 16-24 are allowable over the art of record. Applicants respectfully request an expedited allowance of claims 1, 3-14, and 16-24.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

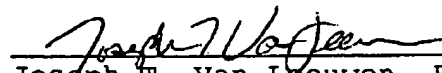
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes

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that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Joseph T. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 44,383
Van Leeuwen & Van Leeuwen
Attorneys for Applicant
Telephone: (512) 301-6738
Facsimile: (512) 301-6742